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News Release

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State files tax evasion charges against St. George man

The Utah State Tax Commission filed four felony and six Class A misdemeanor charges Friday against a St. George man for tax evasion.

Neil Blaine Hawley, 45, faces one count of tax evasion, a second degree felony and three counts of theft and/or attempted theft by deception, all third degree felonies. He has also been charged with six Class A misdemeanor theft by deception charges.

The Tax Commission alleges that Hawley inflated amounts withheld by his employer for income taxes, then claimed the inflated amounts on his tax returns. The probable cause statement alleges that he defrauded the State of \$65,684 in taxes, interest and penalties between 2005 and 2011.

Hawley appeared in 3rd District Court, Salt Lake City, on March 16, and was released to pre-trial services. His next hearing is set for April 5.

“Our investigators continue to vigorously pursue those who criminally avoid paying their fair share of state taxes,” said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the Tax Commission.

“Our children and teachers are directly hurt by criminals like this since all Utah income taxes go directly to education,” he added.

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